

**Town of Arlington
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)**

Tuesday, May 25, 2004 7:15 PM

Committee members present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Ralph Elwell, Larry Englisher, Jeff Maxtutis, Lt. Jim McHugh, Kevin O'Brien, Scott Smith, Ed Starr

Others present: Peter Szerlag, Sandy Bourgeois, Terry Dash

1. The minutes of 4/27/2004 were approved unanimously.

Jeff Maxtutis arrived.

2. Hutchinson Road

Larry Englisher presented several recommendations:

- The Police should continue traffic enforcement.
- The DPW should erect warning signs so that drivers are made aware of the pedestrian use of the roadway. After some discussion, we agreed that the sign should include a standard yellow diamond shaped warning sign with a pedestrian symbol (MUTCD W1-2) complemented by a rectangular yellow plaque below it with the words "on road". One such sign should be erected near the intersection of Hutchinson Road and Winchester Drive and the other near the intersection of Hutchinson Road with either Oldham Road or Lantern Lane. (If Winchester agreed to post such a sign west of Lantern Lane in Winchester, this second sign would not be necessary.) The precise location of the sign is left to the discretion of the Town Engineer.
- The DPW should prune lower branches of trees along the Country Club that overhang the roadway right-of-way and impede pedestrian use of the limited town right-of-way off the roadway.
- Ultimately, sidewalks would be the best solution but lack of funds and likely lack of public consensus suggest no action on sidewalks for the foreseeable future. However, it is recommended that the DPW estimate the costs of creating a non-paved pathway along the north side of Hutchinson Road to facilitate pedestrian activity off the roadway.
- The TAC does not see a high priority for other actions at this time after review of speed and traffic volume data.

The committee unanimously approved these recommendations.

3. Symmes

Elisabeth Carr-Jones noted there had been two Symmes meetings since the last TAC meeting. Changes include changing some of the planned floor space from medical to residential use. A traffic study is in progress and includes peak period manual turning movement and pedestrian counts as well as several 24-hour automated tube counts. One speed count is planned for Oak

Hill drive. It is anticipated that the measurements will be completed before the end of the school year. Traffic for several scenarios will be reviewed:

- No build projection
- With Woodside Lane access
- Without Woodside Lane access

A major public concern is with Woodside Lane access. Other concerns include the poor existing level-of-service along Summer street, as well as the possibility of children in the area being driven to Stratton School via private ways.

4. East Arlington Parking

Scott Smith outlined discussions to date and next steps:

- April - May: Spoke briefly with George Laite, and even more briefly with Diane Mahon.
- June – August: Begin public and business involvement; design the data collection portion of the study. Outline possible involvement for Tufts students. Survey existing parking inventory.
- September – October: Collect data, including parking usage. The plan is to focus on the area bounded by Route 16, Bikeway, Lake Street, and Mass. Ave.

Suggestions included the following:

- Survey residents and businesses. One channel might be next year's Vision 2020 survey.
- Use aerial photo data from MassGIS
- Chamber of Commerce monthly breakfast
- Outreach during Feast of the East, Fox Library events
- Make this a project for the Tufts students.

We agreed to arrange a working group planning meeting (Jim McHugh, Jeff Maxtutis, Scott Smith) after Town Meeting.

5. Downing Square

Kevin O'Brien arrived during this discussion, at 8:20 PM.

Elisabeth Carr-Jones reported that a public meeting is planned for Monday June 7th, 6 – 8 PM at Peirce School. So far, the consensus of the neighbors seems to be as follows:

- Keep the neighborhood feel, with an emphasis on pedestrian safety.
- Not much interest in the solutions that involve extensive changes: roundabout, one-way street, traffic signal.
- More interest in bumpouts, and making the crosswalk shorter.

It was noted that the State is unlikely to approve bollards to make a pedestrian path on the east side of the Park Avenue bridge, but that Ron Santosuoso was planning to meet with MassHighway.

6. Thermoplastic Crosswalks

Elisabeth Carr-Jones reported speaking with Ron Santosuoso about the placement of ramps at the crosswalks on Mass. Ave. 990 Mass. Ave will get a ramp this summer, but not Lafayette Street. Scott Smith noted that Diane Mahon had expressed a concern about the crosswalk at Lafayette not being on the list for thermoplastic. There appears to be no physical impediment to a ramp at that location. Accordingly, the committee voted unanimously to add Lafayette Street to

the list of crosswalks to receive thermoplastic. Kevin O'Brien agreed to inform the Commission on Disability. Ed Starr noted that according to John Sanchez, a 3-year painting contract has been awarded.

7. Multi-Use Applications

Ed Starr presented the draft letter from TAC to Anne Lusk. This letter of support outlines several ideas for the use of stencils and bollards. Ideas include the following:

- Minuteman Bikeway crossing through Arlington Center
- Pedestrian path on Park Avenue bridge
- Court Street
- Marking Safe Routes to Schools
- Minuteman Bikeway connections at Alewife Station.

Scott Smith outlined what was being considered for Arlington Center:

- Stencils on the sidewalk (for pedestrians and cyclists choosing to walk)
- Signs at each bikeway entrance with the following content
 - Asking cyclists to either walk on the sidewalk or ride in the street
 - The route to the other bikeway entrance
 - The locations of businesses in the Center
- A few on-road markings.

Ralph Elwell suggested we add a sentence to the letter stating that the ideas were not in priority order. With this change, the letter was unanimously approved.

8. Mass. Ave. Corridor Request for Proposal

Kevin O'Brien reported that responses should be due shortly before the 6/22/04 TAC meeting.

9. Route 60 / Mass. Ave.

Ed Starr reported that a number of TAC members had seen the Synchro/SimTraffic simulation model of the intersection. Lt. McHugh and Ed Starr had also met with the Fire Chief Maimone, to review the capabilities of the existing signals:

- Equipment is very old, and any changes would need new controllers
- Conduits exist to coordinate the three signals along Mass Ave: Rt. 60, Medford, and Franklin. No such capability with the other signals in the area.
- In an urban area, coordination by radio could be difficult, due to a crowded radio spectrum.
- Clock accuracy is claimed to about 1 second / year, making manual synchronization a possibility.

Lt. McHugh noted that NSTAR was offering a rebate for the replacement of pedestrian heads.

10. Crosswalk Working Group

Elisabeth Carr-Jones had prepared a letter to the Board of Selectmen listing the thermoplastic crosswalks that were due to be installed this year. We agreed that the letter should be changed to include Lafayette Street, and that it be sent.

11. Status of Projects

- Pedestrian signs at Quincy/Gray have been changed from diamond to pentagonal
- Stop-ahead sign on Rawson may be too close to the stop sign. The no-parking signs near Rawson and Broadway have yet to be installed.

12. Alternative Transportation Festival

The festival occurred as planned, but attendance was reduced by the poor weather. Speakers on the Bike tour included Anne Lusk and Tim Baldwin (outgoing Executive Director of MassBike). Selectmen Kevin Greeley and Jack Hurd were present at the festival, and Selectman Greeley joined the walking tour.

13. Department News

Lt. McHugh reported that

- Town Meeting passed the scooter bylaw
- Parking fines have increased, to an average of about \$25
- Work will begin on the Route 60 / Route 2 bridge.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM

Handouts:

Agenda package including agenda, draft letter to Anne Lusk, Mass Ave/Route 60 working group report, status of actions to be done, list of active/planned TAC projects – from Ed Starr

Minutes from 4/2004, and article from Trapelo Road redesign from 5/2004 Belmont Citizens Forum newsletter – from Scott Smith

Recommendations for Hutchinson Road – from Larry Englisher